

REMARKS

The Applicant has reviewed the Final Official Action mailed by the Office on 1 June 2005 (hereinafter, the "Final Action"), and submits this paper as a fully-responsive reply thereto in connection with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

Claims 1-15 remain pending in this application, and stand rejected under § 103(a) as stated in Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Final Action. In view of the above claim revisions and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections of claims 1-15.

§ 103 Rejections of Claims 1-15

As stated in Paragraph 3 of the Final Action, claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,122,434 to Sawabe, et al. (hereinafter, "Sawabe") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0035007 A1 to Wugofski (hereinafter, "Wugofski"). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Turning first to **independent claim 1** and all claims depending therefrom, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify further aspects of the method. For convenience, the Applicant reproduces claim 1 as amended above, after entry of the above revisions, with emphasis added here:

1. In a system comprising a multimedia player application operatively configured to interface with a multimedia navigator program via at least one application programming interface (API), a method comprising:

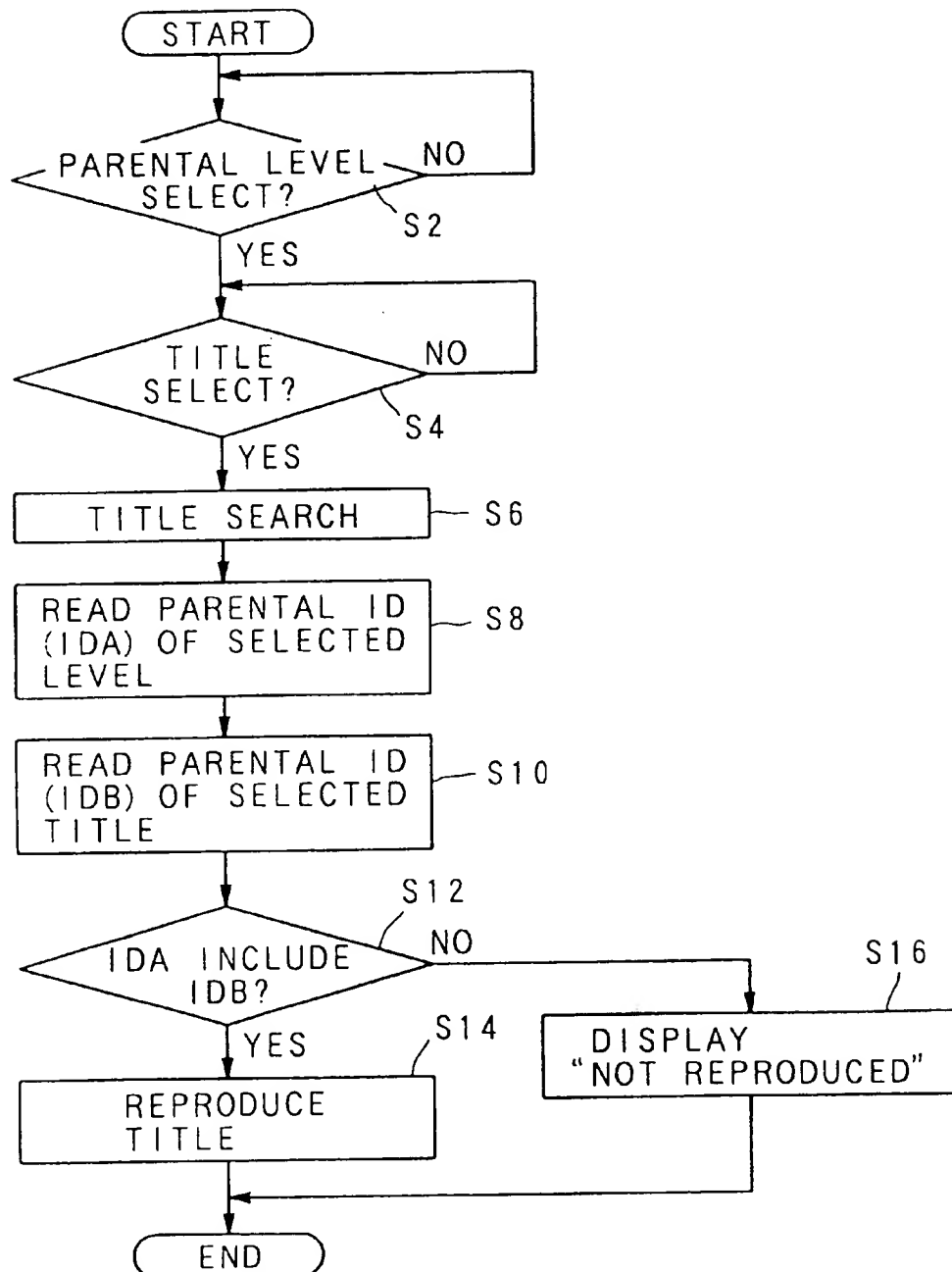
causing the multimedia player application to identify to the API the availability of a feature enabling increase of a parental level parameter associated with the multimedia player application *after playback of a given instance of media content has begun* {page 12, line 9-12}; and

upon finding a need for a change of the parental level parameter *after playback has begun*, causing the multimedia navigator program to pause playback of the media content, and blocking playback of the media content until the multimedia player application indicates that the parental level *parameter has been increased* so as to enable playback of the media content.

The Applicant submits that the revisions to claim 1 are fully supported by the specification under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, at least by page 12, lines 9-12.

Sawabe pertains to an information recoding medium, having data and management portions, and an apparatus for reproducing information from the medium. For convenience, the Applicant reproduces here Figure 17 from Sawabe:

FIG. 17



1 Turning to Sawabe's Figure 17, and related description from column 18,
2 line 64 to column 19, line 25, the Applicant respectfully submits that Sawabe
3 neither teaches nor suggests "... a feature enabling increase of a parental level
4 parameter associated with the multimedia player application *after playback of a*
5 *given instance of media content has begun...*". In step S2, Sawabe judges whether
6 or not the parental level is selected. In step S12, Sawabe judges whether or not the
7 parental ID IDB is included in the parental ID IDA. If yes, then in step S14,
8 Sawabe begins reproducing the selected title. If not, then in step S16, Sawabe
9 displays the message "Not Reproduced".
10

11 Because Sawabe's parental level select step S2 occurs before its title
12 reproducing step S14, Sawabe fails to teach or suggest increasing a parental level
13 parameter "after playback of a given instance of media content has begun", as
14 recited in the Applicant's claim 1. Moreover, the Applicant notes that Sawabe
15 expressly provides in column 19, lines 23-25 that the operation depicted in its
16 Figure 17 ends after either step S14 or S16. Therefore, Sawabe does not teach or
17 suggest looping back to step S2 after executing either of steps S14 or S16.
18 Sawabe's process as depicted in Figure 17 appears to be run only once when
19 playing back a given instance of media, and does not teach or suggest increasing
20 the parental level parameter after playback has begun.
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23 Turning to the secondary reference, Woguofski, the Applicant agrees with
24 the assessment on Page 5 of the Final Action that Sawabe does not specifically
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1 disclose at least one application programming interface and that the causing step is
2 to the at least one application programming interface. Therefore, the Final Action
3 cited Wugofski for this teaching. Without conceding that Wugofski is properly
4 combined with Sawabe under § 103, the Applicant submits that Wugofski does not
5 teach or suggest increasing the parental level parameter after playback has begun.
6 Therefore, Wugofski does not provide the teaching missing from Sawabe to
7 support a § 103 rejection of claim 1.
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9 On at least this basis, the Applicant submits that Sawabe and Wugofski do
10 not support a § 103 rejection of independent claim 1, and requests reconsideration
11 and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim 1. These same comments apply
12 equally to claims 2-5, which depend from claim 1. Dependent claims 3 and 4 are
13 amended for consistency with claim 1, and the revisions thereto are believed
14 supported under § 112, 1st paragraph, on at least the same basis as were the
15 revisions to claim 1.
16

17 Turning now to **independent claim 6**, the Applicant has amended claim 6
18 to clarify further aspects of the computer-readable medium. The revisions made to
19 claim 6 are believed fully supported under § 112, 1st paragraph, on at least the
20 same basis as were the revisions to claim 1 above. Also, the revisions made to
21 claim 6 are similar to the revisions to claim 1 above, and the comments made
22 above regarding Sawabe and Wugofski apply equally to claim 6.
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1 On at least this basis, the Applicant submits that Sawabe and Wugofski do
2 not support a § 103 rejection of independent claim 6, and requests reconsideration
3 and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim 6. These same comments apply
4 equally to claims 7-10, which depend from claim 6. Dependent claims 8 and 9 are
5 amended for consistency with claim 6, and the revisions thereto are believed
6 supported under § 112, 1st paragraph, on at least the same basis as were the
7 revisions to claim 6.
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9 Turning now to **independent claim 11**, the Applicant has amended claim
10 11 to clarify further aspects of the system. The revisions made to claim 11 are
11 believed fully supported under § 112, 1st paragraph, on at least the same basis as
12 were the revisions to claim 1 above. Also, the revisions made to claim 11 are
13 similar to the revisions to claim 1 above, and the comments made above regarding
14 Sawabe and Wugofski apply equally to claim 11.
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16 On at least this basis, the Applicant submits that Sawabe and Wugofski do
17 not support a § 103 rejection of independent claim 11, and requests
18 reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim 11. These same
19 comments apply equally to claims 12-15, which depend from claim 11.
20 Dependent claims 13 and 14 are amended for consistency with claim 11, and the
21 revisions thereto are believed supported under § 112, 1st paragraph, on at least the
22 same basis as were the revisions to claim 11.
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1 Conclusion

2 In light of the above revisions and comments, the Applicant respectfully
3 requests reconsideration and withdrawal of rejected claims 1-15. If discussion of
4 this case would advance prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested
5 to contact the undersigned attorney to arrange a telephone interview.
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9 Respectfully Submitted,

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11 Dated: 30 AUG 05

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